Please add new claims 60-61 as follows:

--60. The method as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that the biological sample is urine, cerebrospinal fluid or serum.--

--61. The method as claimed in claim 29, characterized in that the biological sample is urine, cerebrospinal fluid or serum.--

REMARKS

Claims 19-23, 26-30 and 33 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-18, 24-25, 31-32 and 34-59 are cancelled and claims 22, 23, 26-29 and 33 are amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and claims 60-61 are added. Prompt and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,

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WPB:TJP/zmc

Attached: APPENDIX

Date: January 15, 2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
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Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension necessary for entry;
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 1-18, 24-25, 31-32, and 34-59 are canceled.

Claims 60-61 are added.

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

22. (Amended) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 19~~one of claims 19 to 21~~, characterized in that it comprises a protein whose peptide sequence corresponds to SEQ ID No. 9.

23. (Amended) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 19~~one of claims 19 to 21~~, characterized in that it consists of a protein whose peptide sequence corresponds to SEQ ID No. 9.

26. (Amended) A method for detecting at least one ligand associated with multiple sclerosis, in a biological sample, characterized in that the biological sample is brought into contact with at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 19~~any one of claims 19 to 23~~, and then the formation of a complex between said polypeptide and the ligand is detected.

27. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that the biological sample is in addition brought into contact with at least one polypeptide~~as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5~~ comprising at least one fragment of a protein chosen from proteins whose peptide sequence in the native state corresponds to SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 8 and SEQ ID No. 10 to SEQ ID No. 29 and the peptide sequences which exhibit at least 70% identity with any one of the peptide sequences SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 8 and SEQ ID No. 10 to SEQ ID No. 29, and the peptide sequences or the fragments of said sequences belonging to the same family of proteins chosen from

Perlecan, the precursor of the retinol-binding plasma protein, precursor of the ganglioside GM2 activator, calgranulin B and saposin B.

28. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 26 ~~or 27~~, characterized in that said ligand is an antibody, a receptor, a substrate for enzymatic activity or an enzyme for which said polypeptide is a cofactor.

29. (Amended) A method for detecting at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 19 ~~any one of claims 19 to 23~~, in a biological sample, characterized in that the biological sample is brought into contact with at least one ligand specific for said polypeptide, and then the formation of a complex between said polypeptide and said ligand is detected.

33. (Amended) A nucleotide fragment, characterized in that it encodes a polypeptide as defined in claim 19 ~~any one of claims 19 to 23~~.